

## Updated Dress Code for Liturgical Ministers

With the regular addition of new Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), Ushers, Cantors, and Greeters to the ministries of St. Albert the Great parish, we on the Liturgical Commission are re-issuing to ALL ministers the long-held guidelines for apparel or a dress code. These guidelines are being re-issued in a spirit of charity toward all those who so generously minister in the liturgy as well as with a desire for dignified and devout celebrations of the Mass.

This dress code in large part has been the custom at St. Albert the Great from the beginning of lay participants in the ministries of the Mass. These standards of apparel come from our belief that the manner of our dress as liturgical ministers expresses respect and reverence to the Lord and to the Church community gathered. We feel the need to re-affirm our dress code at a time when our society's approach to clothing and attire are growing increasingly more casual. Our hope is to maintain a certain level of appropriate formality in our apparel when we are serving in the liturgical ministries and we invite all of our generous ministers to strive to make this part of their sacrifice for the church.

Ministers' dress should be modest and in accordance with what might be known in the world today as "business casual" with the following clarification:

**For men:** dress slacks (no denim, cargo pants, sport pants), dress shirts (no t-shirts); solid street shoes (no sandals, sport or tennis shoes); preferred but not required are jacket (blazers or suits) and necktie.

**For women:** dresses or skirts of modest length and modest lines (no stretch, elastic, or clinging materials); dress pants (no shorts, no leggings or stretch pants without a skirt overtop); modest tops (no halter tops or dresses, no midriff exposure); dress shoes, sandals, or boots (no flip flops).

**Fill-in Issue:** We are aware that many of the dress code issues arise when folks are filling in because of no-shows. We are grateful for everyone's generosity. In an "emergency", please feel free to serve even if you are not dressed according to the dress code. It would be most helpful if liturgical ministers came to mass dressed for ministry so that we might be more available to serve.

**Thank you** for accepting this reminder in the spirit in which it is offered. We are simply hoping to preserve a certain sense of reverence for God, for the liturgy of the Church, and the respect for those we serve.

*Parish Liturgical Commission*